

1. (Amended) A catheter [Catheter] for providing a fluid connection with a [the] small intestine, preferably for nutriment supply to said small intestine, comprising a tube (10) to be inserted into said [the] small intestine via a [the] stomach having proximal and distal open ends (10A, 10B) and having inherent tendency of coiling over a predetermined length at the distal end thereof, and a guide (14) displaceable in said [the] tube from said [the] proximal end thereof for straightening said predetermined length in order that it will be straightened during [the] actual insertion in said [the] stomach, wherein [characterized in that] said [the] tube (10) at least in said predetermined portion has at least one of a hairy, frosted, rough, ribbed or finned outside surface (16).

2. (Amended) The catheter [Catheter] as claimed in claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] an axially extending radially projecting fin (17,18) is provided on an [the] outside surface of said [the] tube (10) at least along said predetermined length with tendency of coiling.

3. (Amended) The catheter [Catheter] as claimed in claim 2, wherein [characterized in that the] said fin (17) in a [the] coiled

portion formed by said predetermined length is located at an [the] inside of said coiled portion.

4. (Amended) The catheter [Catheter] as claimed in claim 2, wherein [characterized in that the] said fin (18) in a [the] coiled portion formed by said predetermined length is located at an [the] outside of [this] said coiled portion.

5. (Amended) The catheter [Catheter] as claimed in claim 2, wherein [characterized in that the] said fin (17,18) extends helically around said [the] tube (10).

6. (Amended) The catheter [Catheter] as claimed in [any of claims] claim 2, wherein [to 5, characterized in that the] said fin (17,18) is thin and extendible as well as soft and flexible.

7. (Amended) The catheter [Catheter] as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the] claim 1, wherein a coiled portion formed by said predetermined length comprises 1 to 5 turns and has an outside diameter up to 40 mm.

8. (Amended) The catheter [Catheter] as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein a hairy surface (16) on said [the] tube is provided as a velourized surface.

Please add claims 9-22 as directed below.

9. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said fin (17,18) is thin and extendible as well as soft and flexible.

10. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 4, wherein said fin (17,18) is thin and extendible as well as soft and flexible.

11. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 5, wherein said fin (17,18) is thin and extendible as well as soft and flexible.

12. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 2, wherein a coiled portion formed by said predetermined length comprises 1 to 5 turns and has an outside diameter up to 40 mm.

13. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said coiled portion formed by said predetermined length comprises 1 to 5 turns and has an outside diameter up to 40 mm.

14. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 4, wherein said coiled portion formed by said predetermined length comprises 1 to 5 turns and has an outside diameter up to 40 mm.

15. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 5, wherein said coiled portion formed by said predetermined length comprises 1 to 5 turns and has an outside diameter up to 40 mm.

16. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 6, wherein said coiled portion formed by said predetermined length comprises 1 to 5 turns and has an outside diameter up to 40 mm.

17. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 2, wherein a hairy surface (16) on said tube is provided as a velourized surface.

18. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 3, wherein a hairy surface (16) on said tube is provided as a velourized surface.

19. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 4, wherein a hairy surface (16) on said tube is provided as a velourized surface.

20. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 5, wherein a hairy surface (16) on said tube is provided as a velourized surface.

21. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 6, wherein a hairy surface (16) on said tube is provided as a velourized surface.

22. (New) The catheter as claimed in claim 7, wherein a hairy surface (16) on said tube is provided as a velourized surface.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the revisions sought by this *Preliminary Amendment*, the PCT application will have twenty two (22) claims, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Each dependent claim (i.e., claims 2-8) has been amended in the preamble so it better conforms to U.S. practice. These claims have also been revised to avoid the possibility of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 (i.e., for alleged lack of antecedent basis).

Claims 6-8 in the original application each employed the multiple dependent claim format. Each of these claims has been replaced by a series of dependent claims reciting the same subject matter, less the multiple dependencies. For example, the subject matter originally claimed in multiple dependent claim 6 is now